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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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MERCHANT & GOULD (MICROSOFT)
P.O. BOX 2903
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0903

EXAMINER
CHERY, MARDOCHEE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2188	

DATE MAILED: 03/27/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	10/661,721	MENSCHING ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Mardochee Chery	2188	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>12 September 2003</u>.

2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL.**   2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) <u>1-75</u> is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) <u>1-16 and 20-75</u> is/are rejected.

7) ☒ Claim(s) <u>17-19</u> is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6/14/04</u>.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1.   Claim 33 is objected to because of the following informalities: The acronyms

"HTTP, TDS, SMB, RPC" have not been defined.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2.   The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of
> making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the
> art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall
> set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3.   Claims 3 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to

comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which

was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to

which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the

invention. Both claims recite a step (h) which is not identical and as such it is not clear

which one of step (h) is performed (i.e. step (h) of claim 3 or step (h) of claim 6) and

under what condition.

4.   Claims 7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to

comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which

was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to

which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the

invention. Both claims recite a step (i) which is not identical and as such it is not clear

which one of step (i) is performed (i.e. step (i) of claim 7 or step (i) of claim 9) and under what condition.

5.   Claims 8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. Both claims recite a step (j) which is not identical and as such it is not clear which of the step (j) is performed (i.e. step (j) of claim 8 or step (j) of claim 10) and under what condition.

6.   Claims 2 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. Both claims recite a step (g) which is not identical and as such it is not clear which of the step (g) is performed (i.e. step (g) of claim 2 or step (g) of claim 20) and under what condition.

7.   Claims 50, 51 and 52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to

which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the

invention. Both claims recite a step (f) which is not identical and as such it is not clear

which of the step (f) is performed (i.e. step (f) of claim 50, 51 or step (f) of claim 52) and

under what condition.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

9.   Claim1-16 and 20-75 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated

by Black (6,671,699).

As per claim 1, Black discloses a method of managing a memory of a computer

to share configuration information with a plurality of processes, the method comprising

the steps of:

(a) allocating a region of a memory of a computer for storing configuration

information usable by at least one process of a plurality of processes, the region of

memory being shareable with the plurality of processes [col. 3, ll 21-34; col. 10, ll 13-

29];

(b) receiving initial configuration information [col. 11, ll 43-49; col. 21, ll 41-50];

(c) storing the initial configuration information in the region of memory [col. 22, ll 26-30];

(d) receiving subsequent configuration information [col. 8, ll 29-43; col. 9, ll 29-38];

(e) storing the subsequent configuration information without disturbing or impeding access by the plurality of processes to the initial configuration information already stored in the region of memory [col. 10, ll 50-56]; and

(f) after storing the subsequent configuration information, making the subsequent configuration information accessible to the at least one process of the plurality of processes [col. 2, ll 52-62].

As per claim 2, Black discloses the method further includes a step (g) of associating revision level data with the subsequent configuration information indicating that the subsequent configuration information has been more recently stored in the region of memory than the initial configuration information [Fig. 22; col. 21, ll 41-50].

As per claim 3, Black discloses the method further includes a step (h) of providing the revision level data associated with the subsequent configuration information to the at least one process of the plurality of processes to enable the at least one process to determine whether the process is presently using the most recently stored configuration information [col. 24col. 24, ll 35-59].

As per claim 4, Black discloses the step (f) of making the subsequent configuration information accessible includes changing a pointer to direct the at least one process to the stored subsequent configuration information instead of the stored initial configuration information [col. 10, ll 13-29].

As per claim 5, Black discloses the method further includes a step (g) of, after receiving subsequent configuration information, determining whether the region of memory has sufficient capacity to store the subsequent configuration information or does not have sufficient capacity to store the subsequent configuration information [col. 18, ll 13-33].

As per claim 6, Black discloses the region of memory comprises a first region of memory, wherein the method further includes a step (h) of, upon determining that the first region of memory does not have sufficient capacity to store the subsequent configuration information, allocating a second region of a memory of the computer for storing the subsequent configuration information, and wherein the step (e) of storing the subsequent configuration information includes storing the subsequent configuration information in the second region of memory [Figs. 1, 5, 8; col. 10, ll 13-29].

As per claim 7, Black discloses the method further includes a step (i) of, after

storing the subsequent configuration information in the second region of memory,

updating validity data associated with the first region of memory to indicate that the first

region of memory no longer contains valid configuration information for use by the at

least one process of the plurality of processes [col. 34, II 33-56].

As per claim 8, Black discloses the method further includes a step (j) of, after

updating validity data, providing the validity data associated with the first region of

memory to the at least one process of the plurality of processes to enable the at least

one process to determine whether the process is presently using valid configuration

information [col. 34, II 33-56].

As per claim 9, Black discloses the method further includes a step (i) of, after

storing the subsequent configuration information in the second region of memory,

storing a pointer in the memory of the computer which points to the second region of

memory [col. 10, II 13-29].

As per claim 10, Black discloses the subsequent configuration information

corresponds to a particular configuration parameter having a unique identifier, and

wherein the method further includes a step (j) of associating the unique identifier and

the stored pointer pointing to the second region of memory [col. 2, II 52-62; col. 3, II 20-

34; col. 10, II 58-60].

As per claim 11, Black discloses the particular configuration parameter includes a port [col. 6, ll 57-65].

As per claim 12, Black discloses the particular configuration parameter includes a genre [col. 6, ll 66 to col. 7, ll 10].

As per claim 13, Black discloses step (c) of storing the initial configuration information includes determining whether storage of the initial configuration information requires the storage of a character string value and if so, storing the character string value in a sub-region of the region of memory dedicated to the storage of character strings [col. 20, ll 66 to col. 21 15].

As per claim 14, Black discloses step (c) of storing the initial configuration information further includes, after storing the character string value, establishing pointers in at least one other sub-region of the region of memory which enable the at least one process of the plurality of processes to read the character string value [col. 1, ll 32-44; col. 10, ll 13-29].

As per claim 15, Black discloses step (c) of storing the initial configuration information includes determining whether storage of the initial configuration information

requires the storage of a numeric value and if so, storing the numeric value in a sub-region of the region of memory dedicated to the storage of numeric values and of pointers to character string values [col. 13 ll 58 to col. 14, ll 3].

As per claim 16, Black discloses step (c) of storing the initial configuration information further includes, after storing the numeric value, establishing pointers in at least one other sub-region of the region of memory which enable the at least one process of the plurality of processes to read the numeric value [col. 1, ll 32-44; col. 10, ll 13-29].

As per claim 20, Black discloses the region of memory is a first region of memory for storing configuration information associated with a first configuration parameter of a first type and the method further includes a step (g) of allocating a second region of memory for storing configuration information associated with a second configuration parameter of a second type [col. 3, ll 21-34; col .10, ll 13-28].

As per claim 21, the rationale in the rejection of claim 11 is herein incorporated.

As per claim 22, the rationale in the rejection of claim 12 is herein incorporated.

As per claim 23, the rationale in the rejection of claim 11 is herein incorporated.

As per claim 24, the rationale in the rejection of claim 12 is herein incorporated.

As per claim 25, Black discloses the processes of the plurality of processes are executable only at the computer [col. 3, II 21-34; col. 10, II 13-29].

As per claim 26, Black discloses the region of memory includes a contiguous region of memory [col. 3, II 21-34; col. 10, II 13-29].

As per claim 27, Black discloses a computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules comprising:

(a) a first module for receiving configuration information associated with a port or 20 a genre communicated from a persistent store of a communicatively connected computer and for storing and updating the configuration information in respective data tables absent locking of the data tables during storing and updating, the data tables being shareable with appropriate processes of a plurality of processes [Figs. 7, 10 11; col. 3, II 21-33]; and

(b) a second module for retrieving configuration information from a data table and providing the retrieved configuration information to at least one process of the plurality of processes [Figs. 10, 18; col. 23, II 9-23].

As per claim 28, Black discloses the first module is further operable to store configuration information comprising a connection string associated with the port in a

region of computer memory adapted for the storage of character strings [col. 10, ll 58 to col. 11, ll 3].

As per claim 29, Black discloses the first module is further operable to update configuration information comprising a connection string associated with the port in a region of computer memory adapted for the storage of character strings while not impeding the retrieval of previously stored configuration information for the port [col. 10, ll 50-56].

As per claim 30, Black discloses the communicated configuration information comprises data in extensible markup language [col. 3, ll 20-34].

As per claim 31, Black discloses the configuration information associated with the port includes a port name [col. 10, ll 58 to col. 11, ll 3].

As per claim 32, Black discloses the configuration information associated with the port includes a protocol used by the port [col. 6, ll 60-65].

As per claim 33, Black discloses the protocol is selected from the list of protocols including'. (i) HTTP; (ii) TDS; (iii) SMB; and (iv) RPC [col. 13, ll 12-36].

As per claim 34, Black discloses the configuration information associated with the port includes a port type [Fig. 7].

As per claim 35, Black discloses the port type is selected from the list of port types including: (i) client and (ii) server [Fig. 1].

As per claim 36, Black discloses the data table corresponding to the port stores a status for the port [Fig. 5-7, ll 15-43].

As per claim 37, Black discloses the status for the port is selected from the list of statuses including: (i) read; (ii) write; and (iii) dead [col. 13, ll 58 to col. 14, ll 3].

As per claim 38, Black discloses the first module is further operable to maintain configuration information corresponding to at least one wire in the data table associated with the port information corresponding to a wire includes a wire identifier [col. Ll 57 to col. 44, ll 7].

As per claim 39, Black discloses the configuration information corresponding to a wire includes a wire identifier [col. Ll 57 to col. 44, ll 7].

As per claim 40, Black discloses the configuration information corresponding to a wire includes a wire connection string [col. LI 57 to col. 44, II 7].

As per claim 41, Black discloses the configuration information corresponding to a wire includes a status [col. LI 57 to col. 44, II 7].

As per claim 42 the rationale in the rejection of claim 37 is herein incorporated.

As per claim 43 the rationale in the rejection of claim 29 is herein incorporated.

As per claim 44 the rationale in the rejection of claim 15 is herein incorporated.

As per claim 45 the rationale in the rejection of claim 3 is herein incorporated.

As per claim 46 the rationale in the rejection of claim 2 is herein incorporated.

As per claim 47, Black discloses the first module is further operable to allocate a region of computer memory for each data table, the region of memory comprising: a first sub-region for storing control information, including a data value indicating whether the data table contains valid or invalid configuration information [col. 34, II 33-56]; a second sub-region for storing offset information used during retrieval of configuration

information [col. 23, ll 9-23]; a third sub-region for storing key information used during

retrieval of configuration information [col. 23, ll 9-23]; a fourth sub-region for storing

numeric values and pointers to string values, each of which are pointed to by pointers of

the third sub-region [col. 20, ll 66 to col. 21 15]; and a fifth sub-region for storing

character string values pointed to by the pointers of the fourth sub-region [col. 20, ll 66

to col. 21 15].

As per claim 47, Black discloses the second module is further operable to limit

access to the data table to those processes having authorization to access the data

table [col. 28, ll 35-58; col.25, ll 20-40].

As per claim 49 the rationale in the rejection of claim 1 is herein incorporated.

As per claim 50, Black discloses the method further comprises a step (0 of

allowing reading of the configuration information from the first region of memory by the

particular process upon deteîmining that the particular process is authorized to access

the configuration information [col. 3, ll 20-33].

As per claim 51, Black discloses the method further comprises a step (9 of

denying reading of the configuration information by the particular process upon

determining that the particular process is not authorized to access the configuration

information [col. 3, ll 20-33].

As per claim 52, Black discloses the method further comprises a step (9 of

receiving, from the particular process prior to step (e), an identifier associated with the

particular process, and wherein step (e) includes comparing the received identifier

associated with the particular process against each identifier of the access control

information stored in the second region of memory [col. 30, ll 63 to col. 31, ll 20].

As per claims 53-58 the rationale in the rejection of claim 6 is herein

incorporated.

As per claim 59 the rationale in the rejection of claim 13 is herein incorporated.

As per claim 60, Black discloses the configuration information includes data

which enables the first computer to access data present at a second computer of the

plurality of computers [col. 10, ll 50-56].

As per claim 61, Black discloses the configuration information includes a

numeric value [col. 13 ll 58 to col. 14, ll 3].

As per claim 62, Black discloses the configuration information includes at least one alphabetic character [col. 20, ll 66 to col. 21 15].

As per claim 63, the rationale in the rejection of claim 1 is herein incorporated.

As per claim 64, Black discloses a computer-readable medium having stored thereon a data structure for facilitating the sharing of configuration information between a plurality of processes, comprising:

(a) a first data table stored in a first region of a range of memory addresses in the medium, the first data table including configuration information usable by at least one process of the plurality of processes, the first data table being shareable by the plurality of processes [Figs. 6-7, 10-12]; and

(b) a second data table stored in a second region of a range of memory addresses, the second data table including an identifier for each process of the plurality of processes which has permission to access the first data table [Figs. 6-7, 10-12].

As per claim 65, Black discloses when a particular process of the plurality of processes requests configuration information of the first data table, the second data table is examined to determine whether the particular process has permission to access the first data table [Figs. 7, 10 11; col. 3, ll 21-33].

As per claim 66, Black discloses if the particular process is determined to have permission to access the first data table, the particular process is allowed to read the configuration information of the first data table [Figs. 7, 10 11; col. 3, ll 21-33].

As per claim 67, Black discloses if the particular process is determined not to have permission to access the first data table, the particular process is not allowed to read the configuration information of the first data table [Figs. 7, 10 11; col. 3, ll 21-33].

As per claim 68 Black discloses the particular process has an identifier associated therewith, and wherein during examination of the second data table, the identifier of the particular process is compared against an identifier for a process of the plurality of processes which has permission to access the first data table [Figs. 7, 10 11; col. 3, ll 21-33; col. 2, ll 52-62; col. 3, ll 20-34; col. 10, ll 58-60].

As per claim 69 Black discloses the first data table includes data indicating whether the first data table should be used or should not be used by a process having permission to access the first data table [Figs. 7, 10 11; col. 3, ll 21-33].

As per claim 70 Black discloses the computer-readable medium resides at a first computer of a plurality of computers of a distributed processing system, and wherein the configuration information of the first data table is not accessible to the other computers of the plurality of computers [Fig. 1].

As per claim 71 Black discloses the computer-readable medium resides at a first computer of a plurality of computers of a distributed processing system, and wherein the configuration information of the first data table is modifiable at any time during operation of the first computer and without restarting the first computer [Fig. 1].

As per claim 72 Black discloses the first data table includes a revision level indicator identifying the present revision level of the configuration information present therein [Fig. 22; col. 21, ll 41-50].

As per claim 73 Black discloses the configuration information includes connection string information corresponding to a resource from which other information is obtainable [col. 20, ll 66 to col. 21 15].

As per claim 74 Black discloses the configuration information includes a numeric value [col. 13 ll 58 to col. 14, ll 3].

As per claim 75 Black discloses the configuration information includes an alphabetic character [col. 20, ll 66 to col. 21 15].

Allowable Subject Matter

10.   Claims 17-19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

11.   When responding to the office action, Applicant is advised to clearly point out the patentable novelty that he or she thinks the claims present in view of the state of the art disclosed by references cited or the objections made. He or she must also show how the amendments avoid such references or objections. See 37 C.F.R. 1.111(c).

12.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mardochee Chery whose telephone number is (571) 272-4246. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30A-5:00P.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Manonama Padmanabhan can be reached on (571) 272-4210. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.
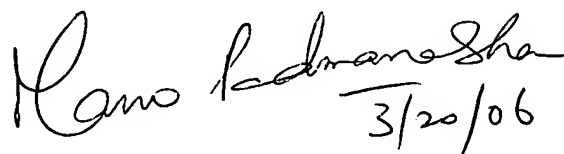
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March 17, 2006

Mardochee Chery
Examiner
AU 2188

MANO PADMANABHAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER